

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA

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FOLLOWING REPEAT MANILA 1542 ACTION STATE INFO PEKING HONG KONG
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QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANILA 1542

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETEL, ITU, WARC, ICAO, RP
SUBJECT: GENEVA ITU-WARC FEBRUARY 1978

1. SUMMARY. AMBASSADOR ARMANDO MANALO, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR
POLITICAL AFFAIRS, DFA, PRESENTED AIDE-MEMOIRE TO AMBASSADOR
NEWSOM JANUARY 27, 1978 CONCERNING ASEAN POSITION VIS-AVIS
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE ALL OF THE
SOUTH CHINA SEA IN A NEW SUB-REGIONAL AND DOMESTIC AIR ROUTE
AREA. THE AIDE-MEMOIRE IS REPEATED BELOW. A REPLY IS RE-
QUESTED. END SUMMARY.

2. BEGIN QUOTE: 1. THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS
UNION (ITU) WILL CONVENE A WORLD ADMINISTRATIVE RADIO CON-
FERENCE IN GENEVA, COMMENCING FEBRUARY 6, 1978 AND LASTING
FOUR WEEKS, FOR THE PURPOSES OF REVIEWING AND UPDATING THE
SYSTEM OF DISTRIBUTION AND UTILIZATION OF RADIO FREQUENCIES
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FOR COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN AIRCRAFT AND AERONAUTICAL STATIONS
AND THE RE-DELINEATION OF BOUNDARIES FOR MWARA AND RDARA,
AMONG OTHERS.

IN PREPARATION FOR THE ABOVE ITU CONFERENCE, THE
INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION HELD A COMMUNI-
CATIONS DIVISIONAL MEETING IN MONTREAL IN SEPTEMBER 1976.

2. RADIO FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION

IN ORDER TO AVOID HARMFUL INTERFERENCE, THE RADIO-FREQUENCIES SELECTED FOR AIR-GROUND COMMUNICATIONS ARE GROUPED INTO "FAMILIES". ONE FAMILY OF FREQUENCIES IS ALLOTTED TO A SO-CALLED "AIR-ROUTE-AREA". THE WORLD IS DIVIDED INTO TWO TYPES OF AIR-ROUTE-AREAS, REFERRED TO AS MWARA'S AND RDARA'S WHICH ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

MWARA-MAJOR WORLD AIR-ROUTE AREA

AN AREA EMBRACING A CERTAIN NUMBER OF MAJOR WORLD AIR ROUTES FOR LONG DISTANCE FLIGHTS WHICH GENERALLY FOLLOW THE SAME TRAFFIC PATTERN ARE SO RELATED GEOGRAPHICALLY, THAT THE SAME FREQUENCY FAMILIES MAY LOGICALLY BE APPLIED.

RDARA - REGIONAL AND DOMESTIC AIR ROUTE AREA

AN AREA EMBRACING A CERTAIN NUMBER OF THE AIR ROUTES NOT COVERED BY THE DEFINITION OF MWARA.

THERE ARE 15 MWARA'S AND 13 RDARA'S AND THE RDARA'S ARE SUB-DIVIDED INTO SUB-RDARA'S. ALL ASEAN COUNTRIES ARE IN THE SUB-RDARA 6D AND 6F, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE EASTERN PART OF INDONESIA, WHICH IS IN THE RDARA 6C.

3. PROPOSAL OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

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AT THE ICAO COMMUNICATIONS DIVISIONAL MEETING IN MONTREAL IN 1976, THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA PROPOSED THE CREATION OF A NEW SUB-RDARA TO BE NAMED SUB-RDARA 6G WHICH WOULD COVER NOT ONLY MAINLAND CHINA AND TAIWAN BUT ALSO THE PARACELS (HSISHA), SPRATLY ISLANDS (NANSHA), TUNGSHA ISLANDS, AND OTHER ISLANDS IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA, INCLUDING THE ISLAND OF HAINAN.

THE CHINESE DELEGATION IN MONTREAL REITERATED A CLAIM THAT THE SOUTH CHINA SEA ISLANDS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A PART OF CHINA'S TERRITORY AND THE PRC ALONE HAS THE SOVEREIGN RIGHT TO ESTABLISH AND OPERATE DOMESTIC AIR SERVICE TO THE ABOVE-MENTIONED ISLANDS. THEREFORE THE SOUTH CHINA SEA ISLANDS MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE RDARA SUB-AREA 6G PROPOSED BY CHINA. THE CHINESE DELEGATION INVITED THE MEETING TO TAKE NOTE OF THIS STAND OF CHINA, AND ASKED THAT ITS STATEMENT BE RECORDED IN THE REPORT AND IN THE MINUTES OF THE PLENARY MEETING.

THE INDONESIAN DELEGATION TO THE ICAO MEETING SUGGESTED AN AMENDMENT TO THE PROPOSED NEW SUB-RDARA 6 AS DEFINED BY THE PRC TO THE EFFECT THAT THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AREA IS EXCLUDED FROM THE PROPOSED NEW SUB-RDARA 6. THE REASON FOR

THE MODIFICATION OF THE ORIGINAL PRC PROPOSAL, AS PUT FORWARD BY THE INDONESIAN DELEGATION WAS THAT THE INCLUSION OF THE AREA SOUTH OF 20 DEGREES N TO THE NEW SUB-RDARA WOULD BE INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE AIR TRAFFIC SERVICE STRUCTURE AND THE ACTUAL AIRCRAFT MOVEMENT IN THE AREA CONCERNED. THE ICAO MEETING DECIDED TO ADOPT THE PRC PROPOSAL AS AMENDED ACCORDING TO THE SUGGESTION OF INDONESIA.

THE ICAO PROPOSAL ACCEPTED THE CREATION OF A NEW SUB-AREA 6G TO COVER MAINLAND CHINA, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE AREA SOUTH OF 20 DEGREES N BUT TO INCLUDE THE ISLAND OF HAINAN WITH SUB-AREA 6D REMAINING UNCHANGED.

THE CHINESE DELEGATION IN MONTREAL SUBMITTED A STATE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MENT TO INDICATE THAT THE ICAO MEETING'S DECISION WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, REITERATING ITS STAND THAT THE SOUTH CHINA SEA ISLANDS MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE RDARA SUB-AREA 6G AS PROPOSED BY CHINA. THEREFORE IT MAY BE ANTICIPATED THAT THE SAME ISSUE WILL BE BROUGHT UP AGAIN AT THE ITU WORLD ADMINISTRATIVE RADIO CONFERENCES IN GENEVA IN FEBRUARY 1978.

AN ASEAN PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE ITC CONFERENCE WAS HELD IN MANILA ON 19-20 JANUARY 1978. AT THIS MEETING THE ASEAN COUNTRIES DISCUSSED THE PRC PROPOSAL AND FOUND THAT FROM THE AERONAUTICAL POINT OF VIEW, THE ASEAN COUNTRIES WOULD BE AFFECTED BY THE ORIGINAL PRC PROPOSAL, SINCE THE PHILIPPINES, SINGAPORE, AND MALAYSIA ARE AT PRESENT PROVIDING

AIR TRAFFIC SERVICES OVER THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AREA, WHILE INDONESIA IS MAINTAINING A REGULAR DOMESTIC AIR TRAFFIC BETWEEN THE NATUNA ISLANDS IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AND OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. THEY AGREED THAT THE PROVISION OF AIR TRAFFIC SERVICES UNDER THE PRESENT AIRSPACE ORGANIZATION OVER THE SOUTH CHINA SEA IS GENERALLY CONSIDERED ADEQUATE AND THEREFORE THERE IS NO NEED FOR SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES. THEY FOUND THAT THE ORIGINAL PRC PROPOSAL NEGATES THE BASIC CONCEPT OF REGIONAL AIR ROUTES AREA, THAT AMONG OTHERS, AS A GENERAL REQUIREMENT, AIRCRAFTS SHOULD USE ONLY THE SAME RDARA FREQUENCY FAMILY BETWEEN THE POINT OF DEPARTURE AND ARRIVAL. COUNTRIES COMPRISING THE RDARA AREA SHOULD SHARE IN THE FREQUENCY ALLOCATION.

THE FIVE ASEAN COUNTRIES UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO ENDORSE THE ICAO DECISION AT THE ITU MEETING IN GENEVA IN FEBRUARY. FOR TECHNICAL AND OTHER REASONS, THEY BELIEVE THAT IT IS TO THE INTEREST NOT ONLY OF THE ASEAN COUNTRIES BUT TO OTHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COUNTRIES TO HAVE UNIMPEDED PASSAGE IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEAS FOR THEIR SHIPS AND PLANES AND THEREFORE TO HAVE THE SOUTH CHINA SEA ISLANDS EXCLUDED FROM THE NEW SUB-AREA 6G. IT WOULD SEEM THAT IT IS TO THE INTEREST OF MOST ITU MEMBER COUNTRIES TO SUPPORT THE ICAO PROPOSAL IN THIS REGARD.

THE PHILIPPINES WOULD LIKE TO SOUND OUT THE POSITION OF THE OTHER ITU MEMBERS ON THE SOUTH CHINA SEA ISSUE AND WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES WOULD COMMUNICATE THE POSITION OF THE ASEAN COUNTRIES ON THE SAID ISSUE AND THEIR DESIRE FOR SUPPORT OF THE ICAO DECISION ON THE NEW SUB-AREA 6G AT THE ITU MEETING IN GENEVA IN FEBRUARY, INSTEAD OF THE PRC PROPOSAL IF IT IS BROUGHT UP.

THE PHILIPPINES WOULD APPRECIATE A REPLY IN THIS REGARD.
END QUOTE.

3. IN MAKING HIS PRESENTATION, AMBASSADOR MANALO POINTED OUT THAT INCLUSION OF THE PRC PROPOSAL IN THE GENEVA ITU-WARC MEETING WOULD INJECT A POLITICAL QUESTION INTO AN OTHERWISE TECHNICAL CONFERENCE. MUCH OF THE AREA IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA THAT THE PRC WANTS INCLUDED IN THE NEW SUB-AREA 6G IS CONTESTED BY VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS. BY INCLUDING THE CONTESTED AREAS UNDER THE PRC AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY IN SUB-AREA 6G, THERE WOULD BE A TACIT RECOGNITION OF PRC SOVEREIGNTY OVER THOSE AREAS.

4. AMBASSADOR MANALO STRESSED THAT THE ASEAN COUNTRIES, ON WHOSE BEHALF HE WAS MAKING THE REPRESENTATION, DO NOT INTEND TO ASK THE USG TO TAKE SIDES ON THE ISSUE OF SOVEREIGNTY IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA. HE ASKED ONLY THAT THE USG LEAVE OPEN FOR THE PROPER FORUM THIS POLITICAL ISSUE. HE WENT ON TO NOTE THAT THE USG SUPPORTED THE ASEAN PROPOSAL FOR A SUB-AREA 6 IN THE ICAO COMMUNICATION DIVISIONAL MEETING
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IN MONTREAL IN 1976 (DISCUSSED IN AIDE-MEMOIRE ABOVE) ON TECHNICAL GROUNDS AND HOPED WE COULD SUPPORT THE ASEAN POSITION AGAIN IF THE PRC RAISES THE ISSUE IN THE FEBRUARY ITU-WARC MEETING.

5. AMBASSADOR NEWSOM NOTED THAT THE USG HAS CONSISTENTLY HELD THE VIEW THAT POLITICAL ISSUES SHOULD NOT BE INTRO-

DUCED IN BASICALLY TECHNICAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES,
AND UNDERTOOK TO RELAY THE ASEAN VIEW TO INTERESTED USG
AGENCIES IN WASHINGTON AND GET BACK TO AMBASSADOR MANALO
WITH A RESPONSE.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE PROVIDE TEXT OF AIDE-MEMOIRE
EMBASSY MAY USE IN RESPONSE TO THIS REQUEST. NEWSOM
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